

# the staggering starfish

the official newsletter of the **GSNDAMBAA SCUBA Diving Club**

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## Club Meeting & Limerick Challenge

It's that time of the year again, and Spanky is busily planning for our annual Limerick Challenge that will be held during our March club meeting. We will again convene virtually via Zoom at **6:00 PM** on **Thursday, March 3**. An email Zoom invitation will be sent to the regular meeting attendees. If you would like to participate in this meeting, please email a request to Spanky at [gsndambaa@hotmail.com](mailto:gsndambaa@hotmail.com) no later than 12:00 noon on March 3. Winning limericks will be published in the April issue of the Staggering Starfish (assuming that printing the limerick would not require this publication to be emailed in a plain brown wrapper). For those who need to review rules on limericks, check out this site: [Limerick Rules](#). Non-limerick entries will be judged in the category "All Other Rhymes" and the winner will also be published in the April newsletter. Spanky will buy dinner for the winner of the Limerick Challenge when we are able to resume in-person club meetings. In addition to the Limerick challenge, our meeting agenda includes planning our June club dive and preliminary planning for our dive/camp weekend.

## March Club Dive, FIEW

We will be returning to the Fox Island East Wall for our March club dive. As many of you will remember, we aborted our November 2021 dive here due to high current. We will once again endure the trek down and back up the bluff for this dive. We have been assured by our highly experienced dive planners that this time the current will be perfect. We will meet at **10:00 AM** and need to enter at **11:00 AM**. Please be on time, as this is a current-sensitive dive site. There are restrooms and rinse facilities at the park. After the dive we will reconvene at a nearby eatery for lunch and libation.

### Directions for the dive at Fox Island:

(Watch out for bears.)

Take HWY 16 West to the Fox Island Exit.

Cross the Fox Island Bridge

Stay on the main road, which soon becomes Island Blvd FI.

It will eventually bear right onto 9<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Then bear left on Kamus.

## 📅-GSNDAMBAA-at-a-Glance

03/03/2022 6:00 PM

Club Meeting, virtual via Zoom

03/12/2022 10:00 AM

Club Dive at Fox Island East Wall

04/07/2022 6:00 PM

Club Meeting, possibly at ESSDB Jim's House

04/10/2022 9:40 AM

Club Dive at Deception Pass

05/05/2022 6:00 PM

Club Meeting, possibly at ESSDB Jim's House

05/07/2022 8:00 AM

Club Dive at Saltwater State Park

06/02/2022 6:00 PM

Club Meeting, possibly at ESSDB Jim's House

07/07/2022 6:00 PM

Club Meeting, possibly at ESSDB Jim's House

08/04/2022 6:00 PM

Club Meeting, possibly at ESSDB Jim's House

In a tenth of a mile, bear right back onto Island Blvd, which will soon become Mowitch Dr.

Bear right onto 14<sup>th</sup> Ave, which soon becomes Ozette Dr.

Bear left (frog right!) down to the water.

You can also enter Fox Island Fishing Pier into Google Maps for directions.

## February Club Dive Report

We had a very good turnout for our February club dive at Titlow Beach Park. We also had a very nice winter day, with lots of sun and no wind. We noticed a bit of current as we entered the water, so we changed our plans to stick to the pilings near the entry point. Visibility was just OK, at around 12-15 feet. We had a pleasant dive and saw lots of nudibranchs, a Stiletto Shrimp, and a couple of tiny Red Medusa comb jellies. This was the first time Spanky saw a Stiletto Shrimp.

## Nudibranchs?

These beautiful marine animals are very popular among recreational divers due to their amazing forms and coloration. While most of the sea

slugs we see in our local dives are truly nudibranchs, some are classified differently by biologists. Nudibranchs are one of 8 orders of opisthobranchs, and many members of other orders look an awful lot like nudibranchs. One photo included in this newsletter shows a California Sidegill, which is a notaspidean. It also has an internal shell that you can see in the photo. Many of the very small opisthobranchs we see when tide pooling are sacoglossans. Most opisthobranchs have a radula (a hard rasp-like tongue) that is used for feeding. Opisthobranchs are also simultaneous hermaphrodites that share both eggs and sperm when mating. The most distinguishing feature of nudibranchs are their gills, which often protrude from their back (nudibranch means "naked gills"). You can learn a bit more about these critters by watching this [video](#).

## Cool-?-of the Month Section

### Cool-Web-Article-of-the-Month:

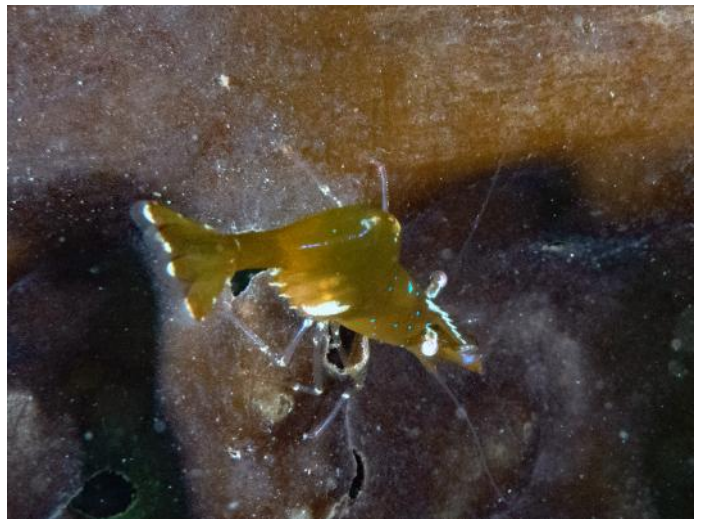
Spanky selected a cool article about a recently found baby ghost shark that was recently found near Australia. These fish are called chimaera, and there are 56 known species. Although they are not really sharks, these cartilaginous fish are closely related to sharks and rays. One of the many names for these fish is ratfish, which we often see during dives in Puget Sound. They live mostly at great depths and are rarely seen by people. It seems that we are fortunate to be able to dive in a place where we see adults regularly at recreational diving depths. You can read the article by clicking on [ratfish](#).

### Cool-Web-Videos-of-the-Month:

Spanky found a cool video showing what it's like to dive in the Salish Sea. The video shows what makes it worth diving in our cold water with all that gear. Watch it [here](#). Spanky picked a second video about sunflower seastars, which were very common for our local dives just a few years ago but have now been determined to be critically endangered. Click [sunflower](#) to watch. Our third and final video shows what some researchers have learned about how light and waves provide protection for prey fish in shallow reefs. Click [here](#) to watch it.

### Cool-Photos-Of-The-Month:

The first photo for this month shows a California Sidegill that was taken by ESSDB Larry at Cove 2 in West Seattle. This is a cousin of the nudibranchs, and has an internal shell that you can see. The others were taken at the Titlow dive in February. We have the Stiletto Shrimp and a well-decorated sharpnose crab missing its right claw.



Got a C?OTM? Send it to Spanky at [gsndambaa@hotmail.com](mailto:gsndambaa@hotmail.com).

Visit Spanky at  
[www.gsndambaa.org](http://www.gsndambaa.org)  
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[gsndambaa@hotmail.com](mailto:gsndambaa@hotmail.com)

The deadline for items to be included in the April 2022 Issue is Friday, March 25.